

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONROV 00999 091454Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-06 /023 W  
-----091608Z 110550 /45

R 091416Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3586  
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS MONROVIA 0999

DIBA/BIC/OIM/SALLY MILLER

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BEXP, LI  
SUBJECT: U.S. COMMERCIAL FISHING TRADE MISSION

REFS: (A) 10 FAM 374, (B) STATE 019050, (C) ACCRA 0845

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL A, MESURADO FISHING COMPANY LTD. (MESUFISH), OF MESURADO GROUP OF COMPANIES IS SOLE COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATION OF SIZE IN LIBERIA. IT SUPPLIES 70-75 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL LIBERIAN MARKET. THE REMAINING 25-30 PERCENT SUPPLIED BY MANY SMALL INDEPENDENT FISHERMEN WHO SELL TO EITHER MESUFISH OR SMALL MARKETS NEAR WHERE CATCHES ARE LANDED. MESUFISH HAS ONLY COLD STORAGE FACILITIES ADEQUATE TO KEEP FRESH, PROCESSED, AND FROZEN FISH FOR DISTRIBUTION THROUGH THEIR NATIONAL SYSTEM OF MARKET DEPOTS.

2. MESUFISH'S FLEET OF BOATS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN SHRIMP FISHING ONLY. MOST SHRIMP IS PROCESSED FOR EXPORT, AND SMALL PERCENTAGE IS SOLD IN LIBERIAN MARKETS. APPROXIMATELY 200-300 TONS OF FISH OTHER THAN SHRIMP ARE NETTED EACH MONTH BY MESUFISH'S FLEET, AND THESE CATCHES PROCESSED FOR LIBERIAN MARKET. THE SUPPLIERS OF FISH, OTHER THAN SHRIMP, ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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FOREIGN COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS UNDER CONTRACT TO MESUFISH. SOVIETS ARE CURRENTLY PRIMARY SUPPLIERS, SUPPLEMENTED BY POLISH AND JAPANESE.

3. COMMERCIAL FISHING PRODUCTS AND EQUIPMENT WHICH PRESIDENT OF MESURADO HAS RECOMMENDED BE REPRESENTED IN THE JUNE 1977 TRADE MISSION INCLUDE: COMMERCIAL FISH NETTING; COMMERCIAL

FISHING TRAWLERS; DRY DOCK FACILITIES; FISH OR SHRIMP PROCESSING EQUIPMENT; FREEZING AND ICE MAKING EQUIPMENT; AND TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED IN FISH FARMING.

4. MESUFISH CURRENTLY CONSIDERING WHETHER TO CONTINUE TO ACQUIRE ITS FISH SUPPLIES (OTHER THAN SHRIMP) UNDER CONTRACT WITH COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS OR TO PURCHASE ITS OWN FISHING FLEET AND EXPAND ITS OPERATIONS TO INCLUDE EXPORT MARKET. IF EXPANSION PLANS MATURE, THERE SHOULD BE GOOD SALES AND REPRESENTATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABOVE NAMED EQUIPMENT.

5. SUGGESTED DATE OF TRADE MISSION IN LIBERIA OF JUNE 20-22 AGREEABLE TO COMMATT. CHANGE IN SCHEDULE SUGGESTED BY ACCRA IN REFTEL B PRESENTS NO PROBLEM, HOWEVER, MAY 14 IS LIBERIAN NATIONAL HOLIDAY AND WEEKS OF MAY 8-21 SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

6. CONCUR WITH ACCRA THAT TWO FULL DAYS ADEQUATE FOR ADVANCE OFFICER TO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS. OFFICERS IN MESURADO GROUP OF COMPANIES AT THIS POINT ONLY KEY CONTACTS.

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## Message Attributes

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